



**Herb and Lois Walker's**

**SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS**

# **The Game**

by Lois Walker

A Readers Theater Script  
About a Basketball Game

Intermediate/Advanced  
Readers

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## **The Game**

Written and Formatted for  
Readers Theater/Choral Reading  
By Lois Walker

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### **BEAT AND RHYTHM**

To find the proper rhythm, first read-aloud and clap through the text as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout these sections during performance. Once the readers understand the rhythm patterns and flow of the piece, they can start to experiment with varying tempos, volumes, emphasis, inflections, etc.

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The script is flexible and is formatted so that you can use only 4 solo readers to perform the entire script or up to as many as 28 solo readers. Simply pencil in additional readers as the script goes along. You can probably give parts to your entire class, depending on how you decide to divide the reader lines. You'll see that reader numbers have been left blank after the initial 4. Please fill them in, according to your class size and needs.

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### **ONOMATOPOEIA**

This script was written to include a large number of "onomatopoeia words". Onomatopoeia is defined as:

(1) The naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as buzz, hiss).

(2) The use of words whose sound suggests the sense.

The challenge: To read-aloud the "onomatopoeia words" in such a way that they truly imitate the associated sounds. If you take time to make this happen, you have the chance to create an exceptional performance!

## BASKETBALL

All the “onomatopoeia words” found in this script are meant to re-create the atmosphere of a crowd watching a high school basketball game.

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ALL:                   The game -  
                          The game -  
                          From the start!

READER 1:           Tweet, tweet – a whistle bleating,

READER 2:           Ka-thump – all hearts are beating.

READERS 1,2:       Swaying to the beat of two high school bands,  
                          Syncopated music, coming from the stands.

READER 3:           Then quickly through a door, squeaky sneakers  
                          rush by.

READER 4:           The crowd starts to screech, the crowd starts  
                          to cry.

READERS 3,4:       Tweet, tweet – a whistle bleating,  
                          Ka-thump – all hearts are beating.

ALL:                   The game -  
                          The game -  
                          From the start!

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A Readers Theater Script in Rhyme for Intermediate to Advanced Readers

ALL:                   The ball -  
                          The ball -  
                          On the fly.

READER               A flip, a toss, a flicking

READER               A touch, a tap, off-tipping.

READERS             The crowd grows breathless, all eyes on the  
                          floor.  
                          Whiz, catch, dribble, run – high-hoping to  
                          score!

READER               Yes it begins – tweet, ka-thump, tap, run,

READER               And whatever happens now can't be undone.

READERS             A flip, a toss, a flicking  
                          A touch, a tap, off-tipping.

ALL:                   The ball -  
                          The ball -  
                          On the fly.

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ALL:                   The play -  
                          The play -  
                          To execute.

READER               Shuffle, bump - into positions,

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READER                      Analyze the court conditions.

READERS                    The point guard moves on down the floor,

READER                    Pass, toss, toss, snatch – looks around to  
                                 explore.

READER                    They set up their offense, focus on their goal,  
                                 Wait for the screen, then do the pick and roll!

READERS                    Shuffle, bump - into positions,  
                                 Analyze the court conditions.

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ALL:                         The play -  
                                 The play -  
                                 To execute.

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ALL:                         The score -  
                                 The score -  
                                 Climbs on high.

READER                    Growl, bump, hustle, scoot,

READER                    Move, wriggle, jump, shoot.

READERS                    The path is clear and here's the scoop:  
                                 That path leads hard - right to the hoop!

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READER                      Now watch the ball and watch the dunk.

READER                      Goes 'round the rim, and then – kerplunk!

READERS                      Growl, bump, hustle, scoot,  
Move, wriggle, jump, shoot.

ALL:                              The score -  
The score -  
Climbs on high.  
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ALL:                              Crowd -  
The crowd -  
Goes wild.

READER                      Scream, clap, roar, rattle,

READER                      We're heading off to battle!

READERS                      Cheerleaders bounce and swamp the court,  
Leading cheers of every sort.

*(Cheerleaders below):*

SMALL

ENSEMBLE:                      "Everybody yell - "GO, FIGHT, WIN!  
Hey - hey let's do it again!"